



**VALERIE  
MANOR**

*"Quality Health Care in an  
Elegant Setting"*

*February 5, 2015*

*Written testimony of Marisa Jones, Administrator, Valerie Manor Health Care Center Concerning*

**\*\*Proposed H.B. No. 5586 AN ACT INCREASING NURSING FACILITY RATES.**

**\*Proposed H.B. No. 5812 AN ACT CONCERNING A COST OF LIVING INCREASE FOR NURSING FACILITIES.**

**\*Proposed S.B. No. 231 AN ACT CONCERNING COST-OF-LIVING INCREASES FOR NURSING HOMES.**

Good afternoon Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie and to the members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Marisa Jones. I am the Administrator at Valerie Manor Health Care Center in Torrington, Connecticut. Valerie Manor is a longstanding provider of rehabilitation and skilled nursing care in the community of Torrington with 151 skilled beds and 250 employees. We have earned a 5 star quality rating through the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid and are a recent recipient of recognition from the American Health Care Association for safely reducing hospital readmissions and safely reducing the off-label use of antipsychotics.

First, I want to publicly thank the state legislators who introduced these badly needed bills---House Republican Leader Klarides, and Representatives Perillo and Gentile, and State Senator Crisco. Thank you also to the Human Services Committee for including these bills at this public hearing.

The bills all get to the same issue- Medicaid Nursing facility rates have been basically flat since 2007, but costs have been dramatically rising. The bills address the fundamental problem of the escalating cost of providing high quality health care by increasing payments based on a cost of living adjustment.

The message from the operator's point of view is simple---Our nursing facilities need your help. We just can't continue on a path where no help is provided without strapping our employees and jeopardizing quality.

Here are some examples of what we are up against in our nursing facility while the rates have been stagnant:

- Individuals are admitting at a higher acuity level. Our nursing facility is treating residents that used to remain at the hospital and who are suffering from various co-morbidities and on a variety of medications.
- Our certified nursing aides are currently expected to care for 9-17 residents each depending on the shift they work. They remain busy every minute of their 8 hour shift and it would be difficult for them to take on more responsibility.
- Costs for food, medical supplies and utilities required to care for our residents have significantly increased.

I am asking you to advance these bills and provide our nursing facilities the help they need to care for our residents.

Thank you and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.